

SPECIAL MEETING
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 16, 2013 - 5:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX, COMMUNITY ROOM 3

I. ROLL CALL

Commission: Rafferty, Frost, Lawton, Munn (5:35)
Staff: Jones

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF November 4, 2013

MOTION: To approve the minutes of November 4, 2013

Motion by Munn, seconded by Lawton, so voted unanimously.

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – None.

IV. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Request for Letter of Support for Land Acquisition: Tilcon Property – Groton Open Space Association

Joan Smith, Groton Open Space Association, reviewed the environmental attributes of the Tilcon property. She noted quarries, ridgeline trails, and a pitch pine forest, and asked the Commission to provide a letter of support for their application for funding from the CT DEEP.

Frost expressed concern regarding the request for public endorsement for public funds for what essentially becomes private open space. He felt that there should be public participation in the development and implementation of a management plan once the land is acquired. He would like to see a collaborative relationship between the Groton Open Space Association and the Town with regards to the management of the property. He acknowledged and appreciated the work that GOSA has done protecting open space in Groton.

The Commission noted that the land is zoned industrial and abuts the closed Flanders Road landfill. It is on their list of properties worthy of some sort of protection. They noted that they had walked the property earlier this year.

The Commission asked staff to draft a letter for their review that supports the grant application and expresses their desire to have Town input into the future management of the property if it is acquired by GOSA.

2. 2014 Connecticut Trails Day Weekend

Staff reported that the 2014 Trails Day Weekend is June 7 and 8. Walks must be registered by early February in order to be included in the printed booklet. She asked whether the Commission is interested in hosting a walk, suggesting Pequot Woods and noting that Copp Property trails will be under construction in June.

Conservation Commission

December 16, 2013

Page 2

The Commission agreed to host a walk and suggested the Sparkle Lake Conservation Area as Pequot Woods is well known for walking trails. Staff will coordinate with the Parks and Recreation Department.

V. REPORT OF CHAIRMAN

Rafferty reported that an application for a dock off River Road has been submitted to DEEP. The lot does not have a house and the owner will need an area to park. He described the vegetation that must be removed. Staff will track down the application for the Commission's review.

VI. REPORT OF STAFF – None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM

Gail Munn, Secretary
Conservation Commission

Prepared by Deborah G. Jones
Environmental Planner